

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A fuel filter comprising

a filter housing,

at least one substantially elongated flat filter element contained in the housing, the at least one substantially flat filter element **being embodied overall as planar or flat in shape** having a clean side and a dirty side which are both substantially planar and are situated essentially parallel to each other, the clean side being disposed between a first elongated surface of the flat filter element and a first side of the housing, and the dirty side being disposed between a second elongated surface of the flat filter element and a second side of the housing, which second elongated surface opposes the first elongated surface,

a fuel inlet delivering fuel to be filtered into the housing and a fuel outlet delivering filtered fuel from the housing, and

at least one wall encapsulating the clean side or the dirty side of the filter element, the at least one wall being disposed between that side of the filter element and the filter housing,

wherein the filter element and the at least one wall together constitute a filter insert which is inserted into the housing.

16. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter element comprises a folded filter material.

17. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 16, wherein the filter material is folded essentially into the shape of a block.

18. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the fuel outlet.

19. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated clean side that is connected to the fuel outlet.

20. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the fuel inlet.

21. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the fuel inlet.

22. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the filter insert comprises an encapsulated dirty side that is connected to the fuel inlet.

23. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

24. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, comprising of two or more filter elements contained in the filter housing.

25. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the fuel inlet or the fuel outlet is situated at an end of the filter housing.

26. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 25, wherein the fuel inlet and the fuel outlet are situated at opposite ends of the filter housing.

27. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising of a flow entry that at least reduces turbulence in the region of the side where the flow strikes the filter element.

28. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the fuel inlet.

29. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, further comprising a flow baffle provided in the fuel inlet.

30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 29, wherein the flow baffle is inclined upward in relation to the flow direction.

31. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

32. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 17, wherein the filter housing comprises a block-shaped housing part and a cover that closes the housing part.

33. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 31, wherein the housing part and the cover are connected to each other by means of a nondetachable connection.

34. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 15, further comprising a distribution stabilizer on the inlet side.